



REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 47 is canceled and claims 2, 4, 6 and 26 are amended. No new matter is added.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a February 1, 2002 personal interview with Applicants' undersigned representative. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview is contained in the comments below.

SECTION 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH, REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification is asserted to not be enabling for part "(b)" of claim 2, and because it is asserted that there is an insufficient written description in the specification for part "(b)" of claim 2.

During the personal interview, it was agreed that if Applicants limited "(b)" in claim 2 to one possible change (at least 90%), undue experimentation would not be necessary and the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, would be overcome. Applicants have amended claim 2 to make this change. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

SECTION 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended "(a)" to clarify that the list of sequences only includes sequences of 3-4 amino acids. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

FORMAL OBJECTION

The Office Action contains a formal objection to claim 26. Applicants believe that this objection is overcome with the above amendments to the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

SECTION 101 REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 101, suggesting that the claim be amended to read "An isolated [a] cell..." Applicants have amended claim 6 as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 101, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone

number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert K. Carpenter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert K. Carpenter
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PENDING CLAIMS MARKED-UP TO SHOW ANY AMENDMENTS

Claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-46 are pending in this application.

2 (Three Times Amended). Isolated nucleic acid which codes for the α chain of a human T cell receptor, a single chain T cell receptor or a soluble T cell receptor fragment and comprises a CDR3 region selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 23)

Y C L (X₁ . . . X_n) S A R Q L T F

in which X₁ . . . X_n represents a sequence 3-4 of [3-5] amino acids, wherein the amino acid sequence X₁ . . . X_n is selected from the group consisting of [comprising] the

amino acid sequences VGG, VL~~SG~~, ATG, VSG, DSG, VVSG, ALAG, APSG and VGR, [or] and

(b) a nucleotide sequence which codes for an amino acid sequence with an equivalent recognition specificity, as achieved with a T cell receptor comprising a CDR3 region with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 23, for the peptide component of the T cell receptor ligands; wherein the CDR3 region is at least 90% identical with the amino sequence of
(a).

4. (Twice Amended) Nucleic acid as claimed in claim 2 wherein the amino acid sequence $X_1 \dots X_n$ is selected from the group consisting of [comprising] amino acid sequences VGG, VLSG and ATG.

6. (Twice Amended) An isolated cell [Cell,] wherein it expresses a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 2 or 4.

26. (Twice Amended) Pharmaceutical composition which contains as an active component a nucleic acid as claimed in one of the claims 2 or 4, or a cell as claimed in claim 6 or 7 optionally together with other active components as well as common pharmaceutical auxiliary agents, additives or carrier substances.